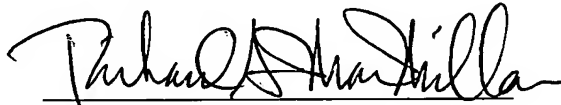


vehicle body and frame assembly, wherein a similarly defined body mount support bracket supports a body mount of a body portion on the frame portion to provide a vehicle body and frame assembly.

The Raza et al. reference does not appear to disclose any method for creating and maintaining internal stresses within a body mount support bracket, as claimed. Rather, the Raza et al. reference appear to disclose a structure that is intended to eliminate potential internal stress areas (see Column 2, Lines 52-54) and avoid stress concentrations upon the application of high loads (see Column 3, Lines 1-5). Thus, it is believed that the claims clearly define the invention over the Raza et al. reference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. MacMillan", written over a horizontal line.

Richard S. MacMillan
Reg. No. 30,085

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900